## LIZZIE FLETCHER 7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY CHAIR OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

October 19, 2020

Tony Robinson FEMA Region 6 Administrator Federal Regional Center 800 North Loop 288 Denton, TX 76201-3698

## Dear Administrator Robinson:

I am writing today regarding the City of Jersey Village's project HMGP 4332-008, City of Jersey Village - Wall St. Drainage Improvements & Berm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved this grant on September 14, 2018, with an estimated total cost of \$5,912,612.00 and a proposed federal share of \$4,227,447.75.

My office has been in communication with the City of Jersey Village (the City) and FEMA Region 6 regarding this project and the various obstacles the City has faced in the grant approval process. It is my understanding that the City disagrees with the decision of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation team to require a second Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review to be performed on the project area because of a pond located 700 feet away from the project site. According to the City, conducting another EHP review would delay breaking ground on the project for another four to six months, putting the lives of their residents at risk should another rain event occur before this project is completed.

I support the City of Jersey Village in its request for FEMA to accept the original, completed EHP. While I recognize the significance of the pond location near the original EHP study area and the reason for FEMA's refusal to accept the original EHP study, both areas are within the same ownership and the same land use, and it follows that both areas would have the same environmental conditions. Allowing the City to proceed to Phase II approval expeditiously will not only help the City stay within budget for this project, but will also protect the lives of our constituents and valuable property.

We have experienced a very active hurricane season this year, and our residents are rightfully concerned about the potential for another catastrophic rain event. As you know, Hurricane Harvey prompted action on this funding and this project, and the risk that another rain event like Harvey brings to the City requires all parties to act with all deliberate speed. It is in everyone's interest to prevent further flooding damages and strengthen our resiliency before the next storm.



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I appreciate the hard work of FEMA, especially Region 6. This has been an unprecedented year in FEMA's deployment and rapid action. I know you take seriously the many challenges before us, and I am confident that the merits of moving forward with this important project is one that you will consider carefully. I look forward to your response and assistance in our district's flood mitigation projects.

Sincerely,

Lizzie Fletcher

Member of Congress